

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-21. Please add new Claims 22-42. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

- 1-21 (Cancelled)
22. (New) A process for the production of a protein comprising the steps of:
- a) culturing a *Zygosaccharomyces bailii* strain,
 - b) expressing and secreting a protein,
 - c) isolating the protein.
23. (New) The process of Claim 22, wherein the *Z. bailii* strain is transformed with a vector comprising a DNA sequence coding for the protein, functionally linked to a signal sequence leading to the secretion of the protein and further functionally linked to a promoter.
24. (New) The process of Claim 23, wherein the vector is an extra-chromosomal plasmid.
25. (New) The process of Claim 24, wherein the plasmid is derived from an endogenous episomal plasmid from a *Z. bailii* strain.
26. (New) The process of Claim 23, wherein the plasmid comprises sequences for replication, stabilization, or plasmid copy number control, obtainable from *Z. bailii*.
27. (New) The process of Claim 25, wherein the plasmid comprises at least 35 bases of one of the sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No.: 63, SEQ ID No.: 64, SEQ ID No.: 65, SEQ ID No.: 66, SEQ ID No.: 67, SEQ ID No.: 68, SEQ ID No.: 69, SEQ ID No.: 70, and SEQ ID No.: 71.
28. (New) The process of Claim 23, wherein the promoter is a triose-phosphate isomerase promoter, obtainable from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* or from *Z. bailii*.

29. (New) The process of Claim 23, wherein the promoter is a glyceraldehyde phosphate dehydrogenase promoter, obtainable from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Z. bailii* or *Z. rouxii*.
30. (New) The process of Claim 23, wherein the signal sequence is a continuous stretch of 15 to 60 amino acids, comprising one or more positively charged amino acid(s) followed by a stretch of about 5 to 10 hydrophobic amino acids, which are optionally interrupted by non-hydrophobic residues.
31. (New) The process of Claim 23, wherein the signal sequence is selected from the list consisting of SEQ ID NO.: 1, SEQ ID NO.: 3, SEQ ID NO.: 5, SEQ ID NO.: 7, SEQ ID NO.: 9, SEQ ID NO.: 11, SEQ ID NO.: 13, SEQ ID NO.: 15, SEQ ID NO.: 17, SEQ ID NO.: 19, SEQ ID NO.: 21, SEQ ID NO.: 23, SEQ ID NO.: 25, SEQ ID NO.: 27, SEQ ID NO.: 29, SEQ ID NO.: 31, SEQ ID NO.: 33, SEQ ID NO.: 35, SEQ ID NO.: 37, SEQ ID NO.: 39, SEQ ID NO.: 41, SEQ ID NO.: 43, SEQ ID NO.: 45, SEQ ID NO.: 47, SEQ ID NO.: 49, SEQ ID NO.: 51, SEQ ID NO.: 53, SEQ ID NO.: 55, SEQ ID NO.: 57, SEQ ID NO.: 59, and SEQ ID NO.: 61.
32. (New) The process of Claim 22, wherein the *Z. bailii* strain is transformed with a vector comprising the DNA sequence coding for the protein, functionally linked to the signalling pre-sequence of the alpha-subunit of the K1 killer toxin of *Kluyveromyces lactis* and further functionally linked to the triose-phosphate isomerase promoter from *S. cerevisiae*.
33. (New) The process of Claim 32, wherein the vector is the plasmid pZ₃kl as shown in figure 1b.
34. (New) The process of Claim 22, wherein the *Z. bailii* strain is transformed with a vector comprising the DNA sequence coding for the protein, functionally linked to the signal sequence of the pre-pro α -factor of *S. cerevisiae* and further functionally linked to the triose-phosphate isomerase promoter from *S. cerevisiae*.

35. (New) The process of claim 34, wherein the vector is the plasmid pZ₃pp α as shown in figure 1c.
36. (New) The process of Claim 23, wherein the DNA sequence coding for the protein is derived from animal, bacterial, fungal, plant, or viral sources.
37. (New) The process of Claim 23, wherein the *Z. bailii* strain that is transformed is selected from the list of: ATCC 36947, ATCC 60483, NCYC 1427 or ATCC 8766.
38. (New) The process of Claim 22, wherein the *Z. bailii* strain has been subjected to a selection process for improved secretion.
39. (New) The process of Claim 22, wherein the *Z. bailii* strain is cultivated in a chemically defined medium.
40. (New) The process of Claim 22, wherein the protein is isolated from the culture medium.
41. (New) A *Z. bailii* strain, expressing and secreting a heterologous protein.
42. (New) The *Z. bailii* strain of Claim 41, wherein the cells are transformed with a vector comprising a DNA sequence coding for the heterologous protein, functionally linked to a signal sequence leading to the secretion of the protein and further functionally linked to a promoter.